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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/914,494	08/29/2001	Jose Arnau	CM 2057M	8081

27752 7590 07/01/2005

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
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EXAMINER

DOUYON, LORNA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1751

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/914,494

Applicant(s)

ARNAU ET AL.

Examiner

Lorna M. Douyon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE filed May 26, 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 19-21, 23-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 19-21 and 23-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 26, 2005 has been entered.

2. Claim 17, 19-21, 23-30 are pending.

3. The rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ridley (US Patent No. 4,678,593) is withdrawn in view of Applicants' amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 17, 19-20 and 23-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salager et al. (EP 0,846,756), hereinafter "Salager".

Salager teaches detergent tablets comprising a core and a coating, the tablet further comprises a disintegrant, at least some of the disintegrant being in the coating (see abstract). Suitable coating materials include C2-C13 dicarboxylic acids, preferably oxalic acid, malonic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, etc. (see page 3, lines 44-48). Salager also teaches adding a disintegrant in the coating such as starch, cellulose and clay, among others (see page 4, lines 14-21). Salager also teaches tablets comprising builders which include alkali metal salts of polyacetic acids such as ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid and nitrilotriacetic acid (see page 6, lines 35-38) and phosphonate builders such as ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate (see page 7, lines 1-2). Other components in the tablet include perfumes (see page 9, lines 51-53). Salager also teaches a process for making the tablet which comprises the steps of (a) forming a core by compressing a particulate material, the particulate material comprising surfactant and detergent builder; (b) applying a coating material to the core, the coating material being in the form of a melt; (c) allowing the molten coating material to solidify; wherein the coating material comprises a disintegrant (see page 2, lines 41-46). In an alternative embodiment, the process comprises the steps of (a) forming a core by compressing a particulate material, the particulate material comprising surfactant and detergent builder; (b) applying a coating material to the core, the coating material being dissolved in a solvent; (c) allowing the solvent to evaporate wherein the coating material comprises a disintegrant (see page 2, lines 48-55). Salager, however, fails to specifically disclose a tablet comprising a clay, perfume, and heavy metal ion sequestrant wherein the tablet comprises a coating comprising a clay.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to prepare a tablet comprising a clay, perfume, and heavy metal ion sequestrant

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wherein the tablet comprises a coating comprising a clay because the teachings of Salager encompass these aspects.

6. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salager as applied to the above claims, and further in view of Creed (US Patent No. 6,007,735).

Salager teaches the features as described above. Salager, however, fails to teach a coating comprising a heavy metal ion sequestrant.

Creed teaches cleaning tablets coated with water soluble coating which can be organic or inorganic such as inorganic sequestering agents to prevent dusting of the tablet (see col. 2, lines 42-47; col. 4, line 66).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the inorganic sequestering agent of Creed in the coating of Salager because this would prevent dusting of the tablet as taught by Creed.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lorna M. Douyon whose telephone number is (571) 272-1313. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Fridays from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on (571) 272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lorna M. Douyon
Lorna M. Douyon
Primary Examiner
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